to have begun from the time of the commencement of the discussion till you reach the exact time the next day.

Mr. Deputy President: Therefore we will take it that, since it began at 4-40 yesterday, we have to finish it now. Since the time is over before the discussion could be completed, the cut motion will not be put to vote.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, I wish to reply.

Mr. Deputy President: I have ruled that the time is over. Mr. Iyyu's cut motion won't be put to vote.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* It is not a question of putting it to vote. It is a question of reply to a ferocious attack upon the Ministry in the most vulgar terms.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* I too should have a right of reply.

Mr. Deputy President: I was willing to show some latitude and give the hon'ble members an opportunity to reply. But an objection has been raised, that we cannot go beyond 4-40. The Advocate-General's view was taken. He has also stated that from 4-40 we cannot have anything more to do with this demand, except to put the demand to vote. I am powerless to go beyond the rules. I can only sympathise with the position of the Ministry.

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The demand for Rs. 2,62,434 for Village Panchayats was put and carried.

The demand for Rs. 3,960 for Panchayats—Cranganur was put and carried.

19. Education—Rs. 18,67,025.

*Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction):* Mr. President, Sir, I have been reminded by the Hon'ble Secretary to Government that I am starting at a very inconvenient hour of the day. I am quite aware of that, and although I wish to make some preliminary observations in placing this demand before the House, I think, the hour of the day constrains me to restrict my speech to ten minutes that is now left over.

Sir, this department very rarely suffers in point of sympathy at the hands of the hon'ble members of this House. I have had the experience of budgets for the last ten years, and I feel convinced that whatever be the nature of the discussions that may gravitate round the cut motions that have been tabled for discussion, I have not

[1] Portion expunged.

*Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

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the slightest diffidence that the entire allotment will be passed by the hon'ble members of this House.

Considering the way in which our budgets are framed, it will be too much to expect bounty in a budget like mine. The votable demand mounts up to Rs. 18,67,000 and odd, out of which more than 16 lakhs are taken up with the demand of salaries and aid to permanent establishments of schools and colleges, so that the small margin that is left over for experiment in budgeting is too small for any effective experiment. Still it is a matter of pleasure to me, and I hope to the House, that some new items of expenditure have been provided in the ensuing year's budget. Some desirable retrenchment for which this House has been clamouring for so many years also find a place in the budget of the ensuing year.

The one outstanding feature, of course, of our annual budgets on education is the rapid strides by which it is mounting up and the second important feature is that, out of this colossal sum more than 50 per cent is allotted for expenditure on elementary education. This year 51·5 per cent of the total expenditure is meant for financing elementary education. For some years past due to the restriction of funds it has not been possible to provide for certain very desirable items of expenditure in the education budget. I refer to the special grants which used to be paid in olden days in aid of buildings and equipment. This year fortunately we have made a small provision in aid of construction of school buildings in very essential places. A sum probably not quite commensurate with the needs, but still a considerable sum, has also been provided for aiding classes started two years ago and which for want of funds have gone without any aid from Government.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Palayannur):* Up to which year?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Last year the classes started two years before were taken up. Classes started in subsequent years are taken up this year.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Palayannur):* That is, 1112 and 1113?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Yes. The amount provided under this head is certainly not sufficient. I find a cut motion tabled by the Hon'ble Member for Adur demanding that a provision of at least Rs. 15,000 should be provided every year for aiding all classes and divisions that may have to be opened in that year. Whatever might have been the justification for what I am going to say in the years past, the practice that now obtains in our neighbourhood will certainly justify what I am now going to say, viz., the time has definitely come for finding some means of extending the benefits of elementary education on a very large scale *(Hear, hear)*. But our existing finances are not adequate and fresh taxation seems

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to be a very distant prospect. Hon'ble members in the course of the general discussion on the budget, in the course of the discussion on certain demands that have been passed by this House, had occasion to say that this year we have a fairly sumptuous surplus and that there is no reason why Government should not allot large sums for such essential expenditure. I am no financier, but I think any ordinary man with average intelligence can see by looking at the larger heads of our revenue that more than 50 lakhs are anticipated from the budget heads of customs, railways and abkari. Is it perfectly safe, I ask, whether it is quite secure to rely on surpluses of this kind for the future? In view of the international situation, in view of the fluctuations of international trade, is it possible always solely to depend upon customs revenue and railway earnings? Again there is the head, Abkari. With the progress of education here and with the progress of propaganda outside the State, could we look forward to this budget head standing still? Should we not apprehend or anticipate a fall in revenue under this head? So that whatever be the anticipations and however accurate they may be for the ensuing year, these sources of revenue are even normally subject to fluctuations.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* By propaganda outside, we can get more.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* If the propaganda is not also infectious. So that the time has come when we should organise or reorganise our system of education. And I find certain proposals which have been tabled in the form of cut motions, I mean, the cut motions which have been tabled with a view to elicit information as to the policy of Government in respect of the Wardha proposals. It will be premature on my part to anticipate the discussion of the House at this late hour on the Wardha scheme. It is a very large subject and whatever I may have to say in my personal capacity, Government are awaiting the opinion of expert bodies within the State before they take any definite action in this direction. Hon'ble members will appreciate that the changes adumbrated by Dr. Zakir Hussain are of a very far-reaching nature. Whether they are going to be entirely beneficial or whether they are going to be partially beneficial, the benefit which are expected to accrue, no one can dispute the fact, that they are of a very far-reaching character. Therefore, while it may not be absolutely necessary to wait and see the results of the introduction of the Wardha scheme in all the Congress provinces, I think it would be right in counselling caution at least till we have had time to ascertain the opinion of the hon'ble members of this House and the opinion of expert bodies like the Teachers' Associations in this State.

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Now the question of an educational cess once formed the topic of discussion in this House when the Bill for compulsory primary education was introduced. And I remember as Chairman of the Select Committee the amount of both heat and light it generated at our committee meetings. At any rate it looks as though a direct cess or even a local rate in aid of elementary education does not look very probable in the near future. Therefore the alternative seems to be to devise, some scheme of elementary education which while possessing the urge necessary to extend itself over the whole State, will be capable of being undertaken at minimum cost so that additional expenditure, at any rate, appreciably additional expenditure, may not be necessary. I refer to this point not merely because it occupies such a large place in the discussion of educationists and politicians outside the State, but the shortage of funds, the shrinkage of our own resources relative to our needs, points to the necessity of devising, strictly a more reasonable way of educating particularly the young children between the years 6 to 14. Whether the Wardha scheme as it was originally adumbrated by Mahatma Gandhi or subsequently amplified by the Zakir Hussain Committee and still subsequently modified by other educationists should form the basis of our reorganisation or whether in view of our own national genius or our own parochial genius we have got anything to contribute towards this discussion, that is the problem we have to consider. Most of these cut motions will call for fairly long discussions, and I therefore do not feel justified in taking up the time of this House at this late hour. I only wish to say that I accept all these cut motions not merely as matters of course but with the greatest interest, because in a way they help to clear up misunderstandings, and in the second place help Government to decide the line of action which they have got to take for the future. Sir, as these cut motions are numerous, and as we have got a very large number of heads to go through, I do not feel justified in taking up the time of the House any further. I therefore move that this House may be pleased to sanction an allotment of Rs. 18,67,025 under '19—Education'.

The House rose for the day at 5-5 p.m.

C. J. MATHEW,

Secretary to the Council.

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